

on account of the silting up of the tanks are brought to notice, Government would pass orders with regard to the remission of *kandayam*. You may address Government direct if necessary, in urgent cases.

SUBJECT No. 59.

Annual maintenance work of branch channels to be done by Government.

Mr. V. Rangaswamaiengar, Seringapatam.

*Mr. Shamaingar.*—Branch channels are as a rule very small and not in a proper state of repairs. The repairs are supposed to be attended to by the raiyats but this is not done. If some raiyats are prepared to do work in order to improve supply to their own lands, they cannot interfere with the channel as a whole and rectify matters. Intermittent supply is allowed in some channels and this reduces the time for carrying out repairs. Owing to these and other reasons the channels have not received much attention, and the discharge is inadequate and unsatisfactory. Owing to the scarcity of water at times in these channels a large number of disputes arise; meanwhile, the raiyats are put to considerable difficulty. The Government usually undertake the repairs of big channels and the duty of repairing small channels falls on the raiyats; but the *kandayam* levied on the lands irrigated by big and branch channels is just the same. I therefore request that the Government may take up the work of repairs of branch channels also. The majority of the raiyats would also consent to pay something towards this.

*Dewan.*—What guarantee is there that all the raiyats would consent to the additional payment proposed by you? The problem is not very easy for Government. It is not possible to attend to the repairs of the innumerable branch channels in the State.

*Mr. Shamaingar.*—I have consulted many raiyats in my taluk and the majority of them have agreed to pay for repairing the branch channels.

*Revenue Commissioner.*—The present representation is that the raiyats are not able to maintain the branch channels and that the Government should take up the work and meet the cost by means of levying additional taxation. Generally, for each acre, eight annas is charged as irrigation cess to enable important items in channel repairs being attended to, but this sum will not surely be adequate if all the repairs are to be carried out by Government. This is a legitimate work for the raiyats to do, but if they do not wish to do it but are willing to pay for it if done by Government, the Public Works Department will be requested to prepare estimates of cost. As soon as the amount is made available, arrangements will also be made to start the work.

*Mr. H. Krishna Sastri.*—Our request is that owing to the uncertainty of water-flow in some of the branch channels some of the lands that are irrigated under them will suffer to a certain extent, and for such lands remission may be granted. The conditions obtaining in Mysore District channels are different from those elsewhere. Government attend to the repairs of some branch channels and not to others. This is not fair. The Revenue Commissioner and Chief Engineer may be requested to inspect the channels jointly, and submit a report.

*Dewan.*—Yes, your suggestions will be noted and the matter further investigated. A report will be called for on all the points raised.